

HERE AND THERE

pletion at the Vickers works, while by 1948 it is expected that the experimental tunnel for supersonic speed research will also be operating.

Hong Kong-Shanghai Service

ON December 16th the first flight on Hong Kong Airways new route between Hong Kong and Shanghai was completed when a Dakota arrived at Shanghai with a number of newspapermen on board. The airfield used was Lung Hus.

Miles Service

ALTHOUGH Miles Aircraft, Ltd., is in receivership at the moment, the Repair and Service department is functioning normally and operators of Miles aircraft can receive all the usual services from this department, which is under the direction of the chief technical officer, Mr. J. W. Angell.

Airfields in Norfolk

ABOUT 21,000 acres of land in Norfolk are covered by airfields, 9,300 acres of which are farmed, according to the Minister of Agriculture, in a reply to a question in the House of Commons recently.

America's A.T.C.

AMERICA has an equivalent to the A.T.C. in the Cadet branch of the Civil Air Patrol, an organization started for the purpose of mustering the country's private flyers and aircraft during the war and which carried out 24,000,000 miles of coastal patrol, as well as supervising frontiers and communications. The Cadet branch now has 49 Wings with a membership of about 75,000 boys and girls, who study all aviation subjects such as navigation, radio, meteorology, engines, instruments and airframes. No flying training is given, although cadets are encouraged to learn to fly and are given orientation flights in aircraft on loan from the U.S.A.A.F. Some Wings have scholarship schemes to give outstanding cadets free training.

Met. Flights in Antarctic

WHEN the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey relief ship *John Biscoe* left Tilbury on December 19th she carried a Hornet Moth, crated, with



AVITRUC: The new all-metal assault glider of this name, now on test prior to delivery to the U.S. Army. The span is 86ft and the designed gross weight in excess of seven tons.

which Mr. P. A. Toynbee will make flights. After distributing 25 relief men at seven permanently manned bases the ship will return. Besides having on board the men who have been relieved, the *John Biscoe* will bring back charts, maps and information representing 12 months' work by British scientists in the Antarctic. The seven bases have been doing excellent work with daily weather forecasts which have led to discoveries about the route taken by the great Antarctic weather depressions.

475 b.h.p. Merlin

IN marine form, the Merlin engine used in the latest Thornycroft 50ft passenger and general service launches has a continuous rating of 475 b.h.p. at 2,100 r.p.m. and a half-hour emergency rating of 570 b.h.p. at 2,400 r.p.m. The engine is based on the Rover Meteor, a modified version of the Merlin developed for tanks, which has been further modified by Thornycrofts. It gives the launch a speed of 24 knots and at such a low rating is, of course, suitable for very long periods of continuous work without servicing.

Sound and Fury

A STATEMENT by Col. S. A. Gilkie, Commander of Muroc Army Airfield, expresses sarcastic doubt concerning the reports that the Bell XS-1 rocket-propelled experimental aircraft has exceeded the speed of sound. Col. Gilkie's statement is to the effect, that, although he had only indirect supervision of test flights, he thinks he would have been notified if such flights had been made.

"It sounds to me like another flying saucer story," he added. The report had been based on an item in the American magazine *Aviation Week*, which stated that flights, timed by radar, were made at heights between 40,000 and 70,000ft and that supersonic speeds at these levels had been achieved. If 70,000ft was in fact attained, this would be well above the world's height record for piloted aircraft.

Aviation Education

ONE little-known activity of B.O.A.C. is the supply to students, teachers and lecturers of a very limited amount of material on aviation, such as films, film strips, wall charts and maps, photographs, textbooks, pamphlets and reprints, and periodicals, in some cases free and in others at a small charge. The Board's Education Officer, whose address is Airways Terminal, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1, is interested in hearing from school teachers their views on what material is required and in getting into touch with teachers who are prepared to help in compiling material. In the meantime a list of materials available and the sources from which they may be obtained has been compiled.

News in Brief

Mr. Paul E. Lamer, a French parachutist trained at Ringway during the war, plans to return to Ringway to make an attempt to beat the Russian record which is reported to be a drop of 8½ mi.

Mr. A. S. Bishop, a director of the Goodyear organization, has been elected chairman of the Tyre Trade Joint Committee in succession to the late Sir Harold Kenward.

"Caroplane" aircraft in America, such as the Consolidated machine which crashed on test recently, are intended to make use of stocks of detachable wings at the main airfields.

Westland Aircraft, Ltd. is proposing to pay a dividend of 5 per cent tax free on the ordinary capital, the same as last year. The annual report says that deliveries of aircraft have been on a reduced scale during the year.

"A woman passenger knitted three inches of a sock while a plane circled London Airport last night"—*Daily Express*, December 22nd.



FERRYING PASSENGERS: Trans World Airlines use this smart hybrid between a limousine and a bus to carry passengers from their New York headquarters in 71st Street to the T.W.A. airport terminal.